

Two of Eight Indicted In Detroit Spy Case

Enter Guilty Pleas

Star 9-17-43
Confessed Nazi Agents

Leonardt and Abt Held
In \$25,000 Bond Each

By the Associated Press.

DETROIT, Sept. 17. — ~~Carl John~~
~~Wilhelm Leonhardt~~, Detroit, and
~~Walter Joseph Abt~~, Romeo,
Mich., two of the eight persons
indicted here today on charges
of conspiracy under the espionage
act, pleaded guilty before
Federal Judge Edward J. Moinet
this afternoon and were ordered
held under \$25,000 bond.

The four women and four men ac-
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cused of acting as spies for Nazi
Germany were indicted today by a
Federal grand jury on charges of
conspiracy under the Wartime
Espionage Act, which carries a pos-
sible death penalty.

Six of those indicted have been
detained since August 24, when two
men and two women were arrested
on warrants, and two other women
were held as dangerous enemy
aliens. Abt and Leonhardt were ar-
rested early today.

Sixteen persons, including resi-
dents of Budapest, Stockholm and
Lisbon, were named in the indict-
ment returned today as co-conspir-
tors but not as defendants.

Charge Outlined.

United States Attorney John C.
Lehr said the indictment accused
the eight of conspiring to "com-
municate, deliver and transmit to
the German Reich and to its various
representatives photographs, blue-
prints, sketches, documents and in-
formation generally relating to the
national defense of the United
States with intent to injure this
country and to the advantage of the
Nazi government."

The defendants, Mr. Lehr said,
are charged with attempting to col-
lect and communicate information
on fortification and defense measures
and "information with respect to
the movements, numbers, descrip-
tions, condition and disposition of

the armed forces as well as to ships,
aircraft and war materials of the
United States."

Defendants Listed.

The other six indicted are: Miss
Grace Buchanan-Dineen, self-styled
"countess" named by Federal au-
thorities as head of the group; Mrs.
Emma Elise Leonhardt, Mrs. Theresa
Behrens, Detroit; Mrs. Marianne
Von Moltke, wife of Heinrich A. Von
Moltke, who was dismissed as a
German instructor at Wayne Uni-
versity after she was detained as a
dangerous alien; Dr. Fred William
Thomas, Detroit, and Bertrand
Stuart Hoffman, former merchant
seaman arrested in New York.

The grand jury which returned
the indictments before Federal
Judge Edward J. Moinet started its
investigation here September 7, with
Miss Buchanan-Dineen the prin-
cipal witness.

Donay Is Named.

Among the 16 named as co-
conspirators is ~~Theodore~~ ~~Donay~~, De-
troit importer now serving a six-year
Federal sentence for misprision of
treason in connection with the aid
given to Oberleutnant Hans Peter
Krug, escaped Nazi flyer, by Max
Stephan, Detroit restaurant operator.
Stephan, originally sentenced to
death, is serving a life term for
treason.

The indictment states that Donay
supplied chemicals and ingredients
for invisible writing processes used
in sending important information to
Germany.

~~Dr. Heinrich Willmes~~, former Uni-
versity of Detroit professor of eco-
nomics who was arrested as a dan-
gerous enemy alien in December,
1941, and later exchanged for an
American prisoner in Germany, also
was listed as a co-conspirator.